

99-211

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ON
CALFED**

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K. MAURICE JOHANNESSEN
CHAIRMAN

August 18, 1999

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Lester Snow, Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Director Snow:

This letter is being sent to express my deepest and gravest concerns regarding the information contained in the *San Francisco Chronicle* article covering the environmental stakeholder concerns relative to the Hood diversion point.

On June 8th, you appeared before the Senate Select Committee on the CALFED Water Program. During that appearance I asked you what, if any, knowledge you had about the acquisition of property in and around Hood by the Department of Water Resources. Your response to the Committee was that you didn't know and that I should "ask the Department of Water Resources."

Your comments, contained in the August 4th story in the *San Francisco Chronicle* by Mr. Glen Martin, show your contempt for the mandate of this Committee and the seriousness with which the Committee approaches its work. The quotes attributed to you in this article indicate *you have a very clear understanding of the purpose of such land acquisitions*. Further, in both the December 1998 and June 1999 Revised Phase II Report, CALFED outlines its clear intention to pursue a new diversion point at Hood. (Page 89, December 18, 1998 Revised Phase II Report and beginning with Page 83, June 1999 Revised Phase II Report)

As noted in the Chronicle article, Mr. Tom Graff of the Environmental Defense Fund may "...feel deceived by CALFED," because he failed to note the Program's intentions outlined in the December 18th and the June 1999 documents. However, I can assure you sir, that your attempt to evade a direct answer to my direct question did not go unnoticed. Additionally, I can also give the assurance that I intend to get to the bottom of this issue during the next hearing of this Committee.

Director Snow, the "coin of the realm" in the legislative arena is one's credibility. Based on your inability to deal with this Committee in a straightforward and honest manner, I believe that your professional credibility has suffered a tremendous and potentially lethal blow. To tell the *Chronicle* reporter, "There has been nothing hidden about the proposal..." after your purposeful effort to plead ignorance before this Committee, has added nothing to your stature as the Program's Executive Director.

Your efforts to further the ecological restoration of the Bay-Delta and to secure a long-lasting solution to effective water management for California have been laudable. I hope, however, you will take the intervening time before our next hearing to examine your approach to your dealings with this Committee and the stakeholders in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Maurice Johannessen", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

K. MAURICE JOHANNESSEN
Chairman

KMJ:dh

cc: Members of the Senate Select Committee on CALFED